(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures to be taken to raise funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to amend the Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974 at present.

Excise duty is imposed as per Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974 for utilisation of the fund so collected for various works including conservation and safety in coal mines.

(c) and (d) Estimated expenditure for the safety in Coal Mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) for the year 2002-03 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Coal Cos.	Budget for the year 2002-03	
	Capital	Revenue
CIL	76.32	415.57
SCCL	1.50	190.00

(e) The expenditure for safety in mines is met from the internal resource of the company. However, expenditure on stowing and protective works qualify for receiving subsidy fromthe fund collected in the form of excise duty.

Mining of Diamonds

†2228. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement to hand over mining of diamonds at Devbhog in Chhattisgarh to De-Beers has been reached; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken so far with regard to mining and testing of diamonds and the plans formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under Section 10(3)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mineral concessions (mining lease/prospecting licence/reconnaissance permit) are granted by the State Government concerned. Proposals for prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mineral concessions for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed of by the Central Government as per provisions of Section 5(1) of the aforesaid Act. The Central Government has not conveyed its approval to the State Government of Chhattisgarh for any agreement to hand over the mining of diamonds at Devbhog to M/s De Beers. However, five proposals for grant of reconnaissance permit for diamond and associated minerals in favour of M/s De Beers India Prospecting Pvt. Ltd. and M/s De Beers India Survey Pvt. Ltd. (which are subsidiary companies of M/s De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.) were received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh and were approved by the Central Government, recently.

Use of detonators in stone crushing

2229. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to simplify the Licence for the use of detonators (blast) in stone crushing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are convinced that it will prevent smuggling of detonators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Licence for possession and use of explosives including detonators in stone crushing are granted by Department of Explosives under the administrative control of Ministry of Commerce and Industry under the provisions of Explosives Rules, 1983. It has ben intimated by Ministry of Commerce and Industry that there is no specific proposal with the Government for simplification of licence for use of detonators in stone crushing.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.